

**Great Barrington Conservation Commission Meeting
Selectman's Meeting Room, Town Hall
December 28, 2011**

ATTENDEES: Patricia Kinne, Orit Kadosh, Jessica Dezieck, Jennifer Connell, Andrew Mankin

Chairman Kinne brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

7:30 NOI – Maple Avenue, Map 30, Lot 45, DEP file # 167-0343, filed by George Beebe, continued. The proposed project will provide flood protection and bank stabilization along approximately 600 feet of the left bank of the Green River while providing excess compensatory flood storage.

George Beebe was not present at the meeting.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin that we continue the public hearing at 7:30 on Wednesday, January 25th. The meeting will be held at the fire station rather than at Town Hall due to a room conflict.

SECOND: Jessica Dezieck

VOTE: 5-0, all in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Approve November 22, 2011 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Jessica Dezieck that we approve the November 22, 2011 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Andrew Mankin

VOTE: 5-0, all in favor.

2. Open Space and Recreation Plan update

Agent Sewall stated that she has met with Chris Rembold and they have developed an itinerary of what they are going to look at. Agent Sewall may need help with a long list of people who are to be interviewed. Public meetings probably won't be held until the beginning of March. BioMap2 just came out and contains the names of all endangered species; Agent Sewall will forward this to all of the Commission members.

3. McAllister Property Update

The McAllister property had its first volunteer day. Agent Sewall said that some Greenagers were there, and some work was accomplished. The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 3rd. Emily Stockman is going to look at the property and get an estimate. Agent Sewall asked Chris Rembold if there is any money to get the property delineated, and there is over \$20,000 available for wetlands protection. Andrew Mankin questioned what the purpose of delineating the property would be, as it is already protected. Agent Sewall stated that delineation would assist in trail maintenance, as many

trails aren't tagged and people are mowing. It would also be useful for future RDA's. We will develop a policy concerning trail maintenance. Jessica Dezieck added that neighbors are invited to the meetings, and are sent emails as well. Agent Sewall stated that the property was surveyed in 1989, but there is one boundary that we are unsure of. The back line may need to be surveyed again.

4. Special Permit 794-11 for 178 Main Street – conversion of existing store into restaurant Gayton LeChance, the architect for Mark Firth and Bettina Schwartz, the property owners, was present. The proposal is to convert the property into an 88-seat restaurant. A ramp and stairways up to the first floor will be constructed, and a refrigerator unit will be added to the garage and camouflaged with planting. All of the parking paving is already there, and the property will actually have less paving once finished. The construction will not add to the runoff of the site, but will reduce the runoff.

MOTION: Andrew Mankin that the Wetlands Act does not apply.

SECOND: Jessica Dezieck

VOTE: 5-0, all in favor

5. Review of Scenic Mountain Act forms for possible revision
Agent Sewall has been studying the SMA, and comparing it to those of Lenox, Richmond, and Monterey. Agent Sewall identified that our SMA can be a bit vague in terms of wording. Andrew Mankin agreed that it would be best to be more specific, and to have numbers for guidance if at all possible. Chairman Kinne stated that we should probably set aside some time at a meeting to work on revising the SMA. Andrew Mankin agreed, and stated that at some point we need to sit down as a group and go over each change and agree that we want to make that change. Agent Sewall said that once the changes are made to the SMA, the forms could also be altered to reflect those changes.
6. Notice of Utility Line Replacement Activities, Main Street, GB
Agent Sewall shared with the Commission that Tighe and Bond has been starting work down Main Street.
7. Monument Mills Update
Agent Sewall is meeting on-site with John Veronas tomorrow at 10:00 AM. John Veronas and Shannon Boomsma did what the Commission had asked, but it doesn't look very nice. The abutments are installed. Agent Sewall's concerns are that there are two places where the steel plating was placed over a small wetland, and one area where there is no plating, but cement mix is over a large stone right in the wetland. The culverts are moving the water efficiently but there is storm water flowing right into the river through these pipes. The steel plating is supposed to protect the wetland, and on either side of it there is airport mix. Once the plating is removed the airport mix is just going to float. Chairman Kinne agreed that it is not a good situation, and that one of the drains just flows right down the bank. It is discharging from the wetlands into a river, which is a concern. Orit Kadosh identified that the plan is being followed, but we did not foresee the results. Chairman Kinne asked Agent Sewall to ask if the one culvert which directs a lot of water down the bank could be blocked. Agent Sewall and Jessica Dezieck will attend the meeting tomorrow to express their concerns and identify what must be addressed in the spring.

8. Update on Previous Permit Issuances

Agent Sewall explained that we have sent the Rising Pond Dam permits. The permits went by Certified Mail to GE's office, but were sent back to the Post Office after being unclaimed. Paige Cerulli looked up the tracking number online and we explained the problem to GE, and they were able to claim the permits and have them in hand now. John Delmolino does not have his permits, as no one was at White House Square and Diego Gutierrez provided a post office box address but is in Florida for two weeks. Agent Sewall will try to get in touch with John Delmolino to get a physical address.

9. Jennifer Connell shared an update on New England Log Homes. The site looks okay, and although a lot of trees and growth have been removed from around the building, little work has been done on the building itself at this point. A lot of gravel has been laid down where the heavy equipment comes in off of the gate off of Bridge Street. All seems to be proceeding fairly carefully. Agent Sewall has spoken to Hank Kenward and will be going out to inspect the silt fences.

10. Change of location for January meeting

The Selectman's Meeting will be held in the meeting room on Wednesday, January 25th. We will hold our meeting at the fire station instead of at Town Hall.

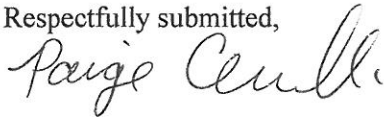
MOTION: Andrew Mankin that we close the public hearing.

SECOND: Jessica Dezieck

VOTE: 5-0, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Paige Cerulli, Secretary